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Spring 2018

## College of Science and Mathematics Newsletter, Spring 2018

College of Science and Mathematics

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## Spring 2018

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### Dean's Message

I want to start where I left off in Fall - talking about student-focused initiatives. At that time, I mentioned that this would be the year we roll out new curricular offerings, including new programs in Neuroscience, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Public Health Science and options in Actuarial Science. Those programs have gotten off to great starts and in some instances have greatly exceeded our best-case enrollment scenarios – a very good problem to have. Beyond that, however, we have made real progress in expanding our experiential learning efforts.

[Read more](#)



### Alumni Spotlight

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#### Department of Psychology hosts Nathaniel Stafford for Distinguished Alumni Talk

Alumnus Nathaniel Stafford returned to Wright State on February 15th to give a research talk and to meet with students for a "Q & A" session. He is a PhD candidate in the University of New Hampshire's Department of Psychology. Stafford is studying the neurobiology of stress and resilience. His talk was titled "Ultrasonic vocalizations and stress resilience: Behavioral and neurobiological correlates". As an undergraduate psychology student Stafford worked as a research assistant for Drs. Michael Hennessy and Patricia Schiml.

[Read more](#)



#### Biological Sciences alumnae receives Boonshoft School of Medicine scholarship

Julia Hitchcock is the recipient of the four-year Boonshoft Scholars scholarship. The scholarship recognizes an entering student who exemplifies compassion, has leadership experience and has financial need. The Boonshoft Scholarship Selection Committee selects only one incoming medical student for the four-year scholarship. In addition, the committee selects four other first-year medical students who receive one-year scholarships. "This is a big honor. It's really humbling," Hitchcock said. "Not having to worry as much about tuition helps me focus on my medical school studies more."

[Read more](#)



### CoSM Spotlight

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**CoSM awarded \$1million grant to expand undergraduate research**

The National Science Foundation has issued a \$1 million award to expand and further diversify undergraduate research in Wright State University’s College of Science and Mathematics.

“The idea is to increase retention, academic success and work/career advancement with the notion of providing students who have financial need with scholarships to perform in the sciences,” said Jason Deibel, chair of the Department of Physics and who helped direct efforts to win the grant.

[Read more](#)



**Treating weakness in patients following critical illness**

The research group headed by Mark M. Rich, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neuroscience, cell biology and physiology, identified a defect in electrical activity of spinal neurons as a new contributor to intensive care unit acquired weakness. “This research may provide the first-ever therapy for intensive care unit acquired weakness,” said Rich

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**Wetlands water quality study focus of national notice on Lake campus researcher**

A study led by Stephen Jacquemin, associate professor of biology and research coordinator at Wright State University's Lake Campus, was published as the cover story in the January/February issue of *The Journal of Environmental Quality*. The bimonthly journal covers impacts of human activity on the environment, including terrestrial, atmospheric and aquatic. Jacquemin said the study can serve as a model for other regions, which could implement the practices to improve the quality of their watersheds.

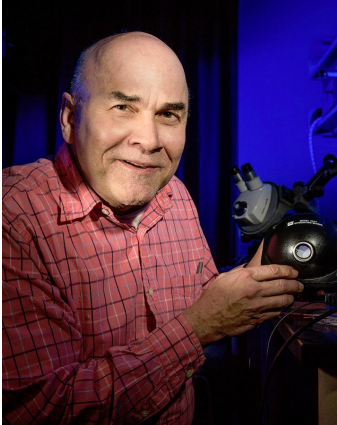
[Read more](#)



**In a good light**

Elliott Brown and Weidong Zhang, research physicist in the Department of Physics; researchers T.A. Growden and P.R. Berger at The Ohio State University and D.F. Storm and D.J. Meyer at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory have developed a new kind of light-emitting diode made from the semiconductor material GaN to shine brighter while wasting less energy. Funded by a Office of Naval Research grant, leading to a United State (Utility) Patent Application.

[Read more](#)



**Math makeover**

Math was never easy for Elizabeth Hachet. But today, the Wright State alumna is helping people with their taxes as part of her job at AmeriCorps. She credits her Mathematics professors at Wright State in the College of Science and Mathematics for her success in her role with AmeriCorps. Her comfort with math is largely due to an innovative program offered by the CoSM designed to increase student success by offering "just-in-time" remedial courses in tandem with college credit-bearing classes.

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**Student Spotlight**



Bringing home the gold

Last November, 337 teams from around the world convened in Boston for the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition, a premiere international student team competition in Synthetic Biology. Wright State students Andrea Poole and Tina Davis competed with members of the AFRL-Carroll High School (CHS) student iGEM research team to bring home the gold. Their winning project was to aid the USAF personal who routinely travel and may be exposed to E. coli and suffer from travelers stomach.

[Read more](#)



Prizeworthy-poster

Wright State biology major Johana Barrientos won third place in a national poster competition for her research on a complicated heart disease among 115 undergraduate students from across the nation. “I was over the moon,” Barrientos said about her poster titled “The Impact of Abnormal Wall Shear Stress in Acute Calcific Aortic Valve Disease Pathogenesis.” “It reassures me that I am doing something that is important and people are actually seeing it is important.”

[Read more](#)

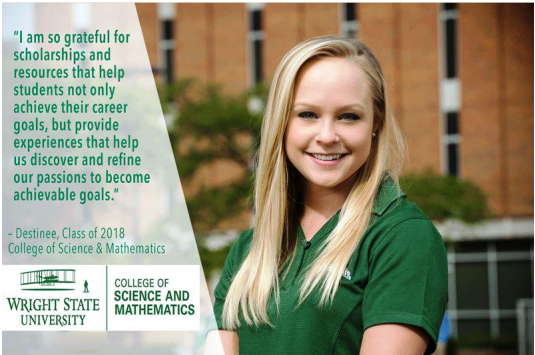


Supporting the College

Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign launches

The Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC) began in 1978 when Millie Waddel organized the university’s first employee giving effort. 40 years later, we continue to see the impact of that first campaign. Gifts to CoSM are an investment in the future of Wright State University and our students, funding undergraduate research, classroom technology upgrades, laboratory supplies, and instrumentation. They also support groundbreaking research by faculty and provide hands-on field experiences and internships for students. Your participation to the CSIC makes a powerful impact. Thank you!

[Read more](#)



Announcements

- Raider innovators solving real-world problems at weekend event [Read more](#)
- 2018 Wayne Carmichael Lecture, Environmental Sciences PhD program [Read more](#)
- Symposium of Student Ressearch, Scholarship, and Creative Activities [Read more](#)



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